



# ECEAP

WASHINGTON STATE'S



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
AND  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Preschool for low-income and at-risk children in Washington State**

## Family Support Helps Families Help Themselves

**Families, in their many diverse shapes and sizes, are the foundation of their children's future success and happiness.** However, poverty and other challenges can generate significant barriers to healthy, secure family environments. With the help of family support professionals, families can develop their parenting and family advocacy skills and meet such challenges head-on. Comprehensive early childhood education and family support programs such as ECEAP:

- ◆ Partner with parents/guardians and appropriate family members, because young children can only be served effectively within the context of their families.
- ◆ Have as three main goals: 1) enhancing the capacity of families in their child-rearing role; 2) creating settings in which families are empowered to act on their own behalf and become advocates for change; and 3) providing relevant resources to support family growth and development.
- ◆ Know that enrolled families can best care for their children if their strengths to meet their own needs, as well as their children's needs, are developed and enabled in mutually respectful and involved partnerships with program staff.
- ◆ Recognize family support as a movement that strives to transform our society into caring communities of citizens that put children and families first and ensure all children and families have what they need to succeed.
- ◆ Focus on the complex interactions between children and their families; children, families, and schools; families and communities; and families and institutions. Programs build on these interactions to create systems that are preventive, responsive, flexible, family-focused, strengths-based, connected, and effective.
- ◆ Respond to research indicating that partnerships and involvement of families in various and sustained ways facilitate the current and future academic success and achievement of their children.

Information excerpted from: *Family Resource Coalition, Guidelines for Family Support Practice*, and Kagan & Weissbourd (Ed.s), *Putting Families First*

**ECEAP: Ready to Succeed!**

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